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Allegiances: GorgeClan

Allegiances

Leader: Raggedstar, a ragged brown tom

Deputy: Redpelt, a reddish tabby she-cat with brown eyes (Apprentice, Blossompaw, a calico she-cat)

Medicine Cat(s): Rainglow, a blue-gray she-cat with thin fur and darker flecks

Mosswing, a small, energetic sandy-gray tom with a large pink nose (Apprentice, Boulderpaw, a slender, long-legged silver she-cat)

Trainer (A Clan-wide mentor, teaches apprentices everything that isn't how to hunt or fight): Birchflare, a bright white she-cat with flaming hazel eyes (Apprentice, Windypaw, a black, white, and tortoiseshell she-cat)

Stormrunner(s) (Create plans in case of attack or natural disaster, and carry out drills for said plans): Wetshade, a muscular tom with droopy gray fur (Apprentice, Ivypaw, a cream tom)

Dawnface, a yellow she-cat

Moonshimmer(s) (similar to a priest): Marigoldshine, a slightly clumsy yellow she-cat (Apprentice, Flowerpaw, a red she-cat with a beautiful dappled cat and yellow eyes)

Warriors: Yellowpelt, a yellow tom

Maplemist, a dusty brown she-cat

Cherrydrop, a calico she-cat with marks on her forehead

Stripetail, a tall tabby tom

Weaselheart, a tall cream tabby tom

Smallfern, an usually spotted, small creamy brown she-cat with green eyes (Apprentice, Songpaw, a black-and-white she-cat with white paws and legs)

Morningsnow, a white-and-pale-ginger she-cat with ginger patches on her chest and long whiskers

Thrushnose, a tabby chestnut brown tom

Brackenwhisker, a golden brown tom with one whisker

Littleshadow, a dusky black tom with darker flecks who is unusually small

Thornleaf, a tortoiseshell she-cat with a hooked tooth and brown eyes

Lilystem, a large red she-cat

Honeypatch, a spotted red tom with ginger patches

Lightsplash: a white she-cat with cream splashes and green eyes

Swiftfrost: A tall brown-and-cream tom

Featherstorm: A fluffy, nimble brown-and-cream tom with a cream belly and a bushy tail

Fawnberry: A fawn she-cat with green eyes (Apprentice, Petalpaw, a baby-fine cream tom)

Sandstrike: A sandy-colored tom with huge paws and a neck tuft

Fallingbush: A sand-colored tom with a neck tuft and a bright pink nose with a scar across his left eye

Soulheart: A russet-colored she-cat with long legs and a scarred muzzle (Apprentice, Gingerpaw, a large, muscular ginger tom)

Mintsong: A pale silver she-cat

Ripplewind: A snow white tom with creamy stripes

Riverpoppy: A blue-gray tom with small toes and a large muzzle

Scargaze: A blue-gray tom with blue eyes and multiple scar-like birthmarks

Sagewave: A dappled brown she-cat

Queen(s): Swancloud, a pure snow white she-cat with creamy stripes(mother to Fernkit, a tabby brown tom, Crowkit, a deep brown tom with cream stripes, Pepperkit, a long-legged she-kit, and Seedkit, a delicate white she-kit)

Elder(s): Pinerock, a very old light brown tom

Allegiances: AbyssClan

Leader: Whitestar, a ginger-and-white she-cat with green eyes(Apprentice, Coldpaw, a small, energetic cream-colored tom)

Deputy: Violetstream, a small dusky reddish she-cat with a beautiful dappled coat

Medicine Cat(s): Tawnydapple, a dappled yellow tom with a large nose and mark on his forehead

Thunderear, a big golden tom

Trainer: Barkthroat, a short-tailed, long-furred brown tom(Apprentice, Featherpaw, a fluffy black tom with a bushy tail and long legs)

Stormrunner(s): Lostwish, a young gray she-cat with one black paw

Moonshimmer(s): Mottlemoon, a mottled sandy-gray she-cat

Cloverflower, a nimble, long-legged tabby she-cat with dark amber eyes

Warriors: Flashshadow, a smoky black tom with fur that sticks out at all angles and ginger patches on his back

Birdcloud, a black-and-white she-cat with a small build and fluffy coat

Lilybreath, a pale silvery she-cat with long whiskers and a bushy tail (Apprentice, Wolfpaw, a half-blind gray she-cat with cream stripes)

Spotsoul, a unusually spotted tom with sandy-colored fur

Owlclaw, a creamy-brown tom with thick fur and a brown belly and legs

Shiningblaze, a bright, pretty pure white she-cat with a glossy coat(Apprentice, Rosepaw, a rose-cream she-cat)

Gorserain, a cream-rose tabby she-cat(Apprentice, Rainpaw, a blue-gray tom with a tabby-striped tail)

Russetdapple, a dappled russet-colored tom with pale amber eyes

Honeyriver, a pale yellow she-cat with wavy fur and one blue eye and one green eye

Crystalrock, a silver-gray she-cat with long whiskers who is slightly clumsy

Aquabelly, a mottled blue-gray tom

Flowermark, a delicate white-and-tabby she-cat with marks on her forehead

Spottedsky, a spotted white tom with only one ear

Swiftfang, small, energetic long-legged white-and-pale-ginger tom

Waterember, a thin, blue-gray tabby tom who is polydactyl

Cedarears, a thickset tabby brown she-cat with hearing problems

Breezewhisper, a big, dull brown-and-cream tom who is mute

Queen(s): Starlingmask, a black-and-white she-cat with a black face (mother to Goldkit, a golden she-kit with sectoral heterochromia, Duskkit, a short-tailed black-and-white tom, and Stripekit, a tabby tom with ADHD)

Elder(s): Sorrelripple, a very old gray-and-white she-cat with tabby patches

Petalstream, a cream-colored she-cat with a glossy coat and long tail who retired early due to blindness

Allegiances: MeadowClan

Leader: Fallenstar, a brown tom with green eyes

Deputy: Fireseeker, a flame-colored she-cat

Medicine Cat(s): Blazewhisper, a flame-colored tom with a pink nose (Apprentice, Oakpaw, a dappled dusty brown she-cat with chestnut brown legs and slanting yellow eyes)

Trainer: Twigmark, a golden-brown tabby she-cat with yellow eyes (Apprentice, Fastpaw, a long-legged blue-gray tom)

Stormrunner(s): Frostwhisker, a bright, striped silver-and-white she-cat with feathery whiskers with a long scar

Moonshimmer(s): Grassbelly, a large silver tom with spiky fur (Apprentice, Infernopaw, a russet-colored she-cat with yellow eyes and ginger patches)

Warriors: Deadnose, a delicate white tom who has lost his ability to smell scents

Thornfur, a long-toothed red-brown with fur that stands on its ends

Silverbone, a plump silver she-cat who is suffering with paralysis

Juniperheart, a small, energetic cream-colored tom with rose-cream splashes

Webmark, a large white-and-tabby tom with marks on his forehead with blue eyes

Greydream, a slender dark gray she-cat (Apprentice, Blackpaw, a black tom with white-tipped fur and white paws)

Sparkleheart, a wiry black, white, and tortoiseshell she-cat (Apprentice, Bluepaw, a blue-gray she-cat with blue eyes, long whiskers, and a bushy tail)

Bouncespirit, a small, energetic blue-gray tom with a bushy tail

Clawstone, a large, very pale ginger tom

Specklespots, a spotted she-cat with speckles on her muzzle

Feathernettle, a fluffy cream-and-gray she-cat and a cream underbelly

Eagleflight, a mottled golden-brown tom with amber eyes

Ripplestrike, a mottled golden-brown tom with a flat face (Apprentice, Smokepaw, a gray tabby apprentice she-cat)

Lightningsinger, a pretty sandy-colored speckled she-cat with fur that stands on end

Echoface, a black-and-white she-cat with a flat face and blue eyes

Swiftdrop, a muscular tom with black spotted fur

Sunice, a yellow dappled she-cat

Larkear, a tabby tom

Queen(s): Sandbird, a sandy-colored she-cat (mother to Cedarkit, a creamy brown tom, Flamekit, a dusky russet-colored tom, and Daisykit, a she-kit with ginger patches and light creamy brown paws)

Spiritstripe, a striped reddish she-cat (mother to Tinykit, a reddish she-kit, Foxkit, an orange tom with a hooked tooth, and Lavenderkit, a tabby she-kit)

Elder(s): Leafleg, a very old sandy-gray tom with thick knotted fur

Runningcloud, a pure-white shiny she-cat

Slowsong, an old silver she-cat who is deaf

Allegiances: CloudClan

Leader: Gingerstar, a ginger she-cat with amber eyes

Deputy: Milkmist, a white tom

Apprentice, Buzzardpaw, a mottled tortoiseshell tom

Medicine Cat(s): Foxwhisker, an orange she-cat with long whiskers

Toadfang, a slender brown-gray speckled she-cat

Mousestalker, a large grayish tom with a bushy tail

Apprentice, Sorrelpaw, a russet-colored she-cat with a beautiful dappled coat

Trainer: Hazelsky, a small russet-colored she-cat

Apprentice, Heatherpaw, a small tabby she-cat

Stormrunner(s): Patchfur, a gray-and-cream tom with thick knotted fur and tabby patches

Eaglespirit, a long-haired white tom with ginger patches on his chest

Moonshimmer(s): Sparrowsoul, a dappled chestnut brown tom

Springwing, a reddish she-cat with white paws, legs, belly, and a beautiful dappled coat

Apprentice, Dreampaw, a fluffy pale black she-cat with a bushy tail and darker specks

Warriors: Brightpelt, a yellow tom

Swiftripple, a thin orange tom with pale hazel eyes

Darksun, a dark cream she-cat with multiple scars

Applesnow, a white she-cat with ginger patches and small ears

Endlessbreeze, a chestnut brown tom

Apprentice, Thunderpaw, a slightly clumsy, young, skinny white-and-pale-ginger apprentice

Hazeleyes, an orange she-cat with hazel eyes

Tallfall, a tall delicate tabby she-cat

Risingseeker, a large silver-gray tom with part of his tail missing

Daisypetal, a thick-pelted white she-cat with cream stripes who is declawed

Cinderfrost, a gray she-cat with frosty eyes and white splashes

Loveshine, a thin, golden she-cat who has dark gold paws and belly

Magpiebreath, dusty brown tom

Icehead, pure-white she-cat

Apprentice, Violetpaw, a long-furred she-cat with a cloudy appearance

Weblegs, a long-legged white tom with one ear

Hawkwing, a golden brown with darker flecks

Sparklesong, a tabby she-cat with ADHD

Sandpool, a mottled sandy-colored she-cat with long teeth

Wildspirit, a dusky muscular stone-gray tom

Willowpath, a delicate black-and-silver she-cat with long whiskers and legs

Queen(s): Rainbowwing, a dappled ginger-and-white she-cat

(mother to Twilightkit, a smoky black she-kit, Poppykit, a dappled smoky black she-kit, and Squirrelkit, a white-and-ginger tom)

Clovertalon, a creamy brown she-cat (mother to Onekit, a creamy brown tom, and Amberkit, a creamy brown tom with marks on his forehead)

Smokestreak, a smoky black she-cat (mother to Snowkit, a white she-kit, Mintkit, a mottled smoky black she-cat, Scarletkit, a reddish she-kit, and Pinekit, a smoky black tom)

Elder(s): Flowernose, a white-and-pale-ginger she-cat with a pink nose

Darkcall, a thickset tabby black tom

Seedbliss, a pinkish-gray tom who is half-blind and has fur that stands on its end

Prologue

Tawnydapple looked out in camp, seeing the torrent of rain flowing down. Nobody dared come out on a day like this. Suddenly, Thunderear came in soaking wet.

"I'd like to announce that the kits are all perfectly healthy."

"Phew," Tawnydapple replied. "I must thank you for going out to check on Starlingmask and her kits."

"You're welcome. It's part of the job to do those checkups, so of course I'd do it," Thunderear meowed.

"Say, how's Goldkit? Her condition fascinates me."

"She seems perfectly fine. Her eyes are only half-amber, half-blue. Her vision seems fine.

"No eye surgery needed?"

"None."

"Then, how's Duskkit? Stripekit? Starlingmask?"

"Duskkit seems shy, but Stripekit is fairly calm. I believe that the therapy for his ADHD is working, but we still have much progress to make. For Starlingmask, she seems worn out as of recently, but nothing to mention otherwise."

"Well, once again, thank you. However, you should probably get some rest and dry up. You don't need a medicine cat getting a cold. Plus, there's no fun in having wet fur."

Thunderear nodded, heading over to his moss bedding to rest. The medicine den was silent for a very long time.

And still silent.

"Hey, Tawnydapple?" Thunderear asked.

"Yes?"

"Do you ever wonder why they work in their ominous ways?"

"Uh, who?"

"Caluh's warriors. You know, those in Ioas and Dauop, Soulstar and such. Our rulers up above."

"Actually, I do sometimes. Let's face it, our lives would be straight-up easy if Soulstar just told us the events that would happen and didn't have to send prophecies that are so hard to decode."

"I see your point. They always word out their warnings very carefully, like 'Catastrophe shall shine down upon the land while an everlasting night approaches. Only the sun can repent the darkness.'"

"Alright, I get your point. But it should be night by now. Even with the rain, I can tell what time it is. We should really should be sleeping."

"Got it. Sorry to bother you."

Thunderear curled up in his nest, Tawnydapple proceeding towards his. The moment Tawnydapple sat down, though, he was already waking up.

Huh? He thought. *Was that all just a dream? Very odd.....*

The medicine stretched and got to work right away, even though the sun was just starting to rise. He started to check the herb inventory. Throughout that day, though, Tawnydapple thought about the dream he had last night. But one thing stuck out like a sore toe. *Catastrophe shall shine upon the land while an everlasting night approaches. Only the sun can repent the darkness.*

"Hey, Tawnydapple!" the distinct voice of Thunderear called. "I did the check-up on the nursery you asked my to do last sunrise. Starlingmask and her kits are healthy and well."

"Oh, Soulstar," he muttered. "You and your ominous ways of speaking to medicine cats. You're not fooling me this time." The medicine cat quickly swayed in his tail in approval, trotting back into the medicine den to think.

Chapter One

"Rosepaw, please tell me the name of the first medicine cat of AbyssClan."

Rosepaw snapped out of her daydream. Barkthroat, the trainer, was looking directly at her. Featherpaw, his apprentice, was watching Barkthroat, studying his methods for when he would take over as trainer.

"Well, that would be Darkberry," Rosepaw answered.

"Correct," Barkthroat replied. "Now, what group in the territory was Darkberry in first before coming over to the hills and tunnels?"

"If I remember correctly, she was a mountain cat. Would've stayed in what is now CloudClan if she didn't come over here."

Barkthroat swayed his tail, a sign of approval. "Ok, apprentices. Now that Rosepaw has told us simple trivia about Darkberry, you will learn why she came down here to heal the first warriors of AbyssClan and her legacy on our medicine cats today."

Groan. More history lessons. Ask any apprentice- Rosepaw, Coldpaw, Wolfpaw, Rainpaw, even Featherpaw- and they would tell you that old Barkthroat made his lessons a task to sit through. Mentors were tasked to teach their apprentices to fight, to hunt, to really be a warrior. Trainers, especially Barkthroat, were nothing like mentors. Sure, mentors could and would be very strict on their apprentices, but trainers taught apprentices history, their legacy, about Cahul, Iaos, and Soulstar and how "divine" they were, Dauop and Ragnarokstar, everything that old stories queens told their kits could teach them.

Rosepaw rested her head on her paws. She didn't really want to, but she listened to what old Barkthroat had to say. If luck was on her side, he would retire during her apprenticeship and Featherpaw would take over. Featherpaw was quiet, but certainly interesting. A

new trainer would certainly bring some new prey to the fresh-kill pile.

Wolfpaw nudged Rosepaw, a silent notion of *isn't this cool?* She nudged her sister back, a slightly hard push of *no.* Still, they both kept on listening.

"Darkberry's mother was Petalpoppy, the second-in-command of the mountain cat group. Her father was Cloverstep," Barkthroat went on. "He was a well-known hunter. When Darkberry was apprentice-age, she had been severely injured by a falling rock. She stayed with the medicine cats, then called healers, for a long time. There were two healers, Windsong and Dawnwhisker. Dawnwhisker was Darkberry's aunt, so they quickly grew a connection during Darkberry's stay...."

Pawsteps could be heard approaching the den. Rosepaw turned around, happy to see the face of her mentor, Shiningblaze.

"Excuse me, Barkthroat. I've come to pick up Rosepaw. We have training to do."

Barkthroat nodded. "Have fun out there, Rosepaw. You may go with your mentor."

Rosepaw sprang out of the trainer's den, bounding towards Shiningblaze. The white she-cat was slightly startled, but she kept a joyous expression. The two went out of camp, making their way straight towards the forest AbyssClan and GorgeClan shared.

"So, how is Barkthroat? Learning a lot from him?" Shiningblaze asked, breaking the silence.

"The standard," Rosepaw replied. "Teaching us to be bored. The old guy's trying to teach us about the history of Darkberry. You can imagine what that feels like."

Shiningblaze smiled. "Barkthroat was still trainer while I was your age. He wasn't as boring as you stated, but not far off."

"Ya. You're not missing anything."

Shiningblaze stopped right at the edge of the forest. "I decided that, to celebrate your hard work practicing your battle skills, I'd take you hunting here. But don't tell anybody, ok? I'd get killed if somebody found out I took you to the forest this early in your apprenticeship."

Rosepaw gave off a soft smile. *Best. Mentor. Ever.*

The forest was one of the last places apprentices were taught to hunt and fight in. It must've been a special day to be allowed to hunt in that area. Rosepaw ran off into the wooded forest, her mentor following close. By the time the apprentice and mentor returned to camp, it was dusk. Both placed their catches in the pile and separated. Rosepaw saw the glances of the other apprentices, probably jealous that she got to bail out of Barkthroat's history lesson.

Rosepaw shot the others a happy look, then bounded over to the nursery. Her mother was friends with the only queen in the Clan, Starlingmask, and Rosepaw was trying to have a similar connection with the kits.

"Hello, Starlingmask!" she greeted as she entered.

"Oh, hello Rosepaw," Starlingmask replied.

The kits were huddled together in a corner, seemingly in a conversation.

"If Whitestar dies, who will take over AbyssClan?" Duskkit asked his littermates, Stripekit and Goldkit.

"Um, well, uh...Sorry, I wasn't paying attention when you told me the answer," Stripekit replied, embarrassed.

"Don't worry, Stripekit," Goldkit replied. "You'll gain more control over things like that as you grow. Tawnydapple and Thunderear will get your limitation fixed. Plus, Duskkit, our deputy would take over if Whitestar died. So that would be Violetstream."

Duskkit wrapped his tail around Stripekit. "You'd be wrong on that."

"What! What do you mean I'm wrong?" Goldkit asked, extremely confused. "Doesn't the deputy take over once the leader dies?"

"True," Duskkit answered. "But the leader has multiple lives. If Whitestar dies once, she can come back with more lives to use later."

"Oh, duh!" Goldkit meowed. "I completely forgot about that!"

"You'd do good in Barkthroat's lessons, Duskkit," Rosepaw added.

Surprised, all of the kits turned around. "Rosepaw!"

Stripekit jumped onto Rosepaw's back, causing the apprentice to tumble down.

"Stripekit!" Starlingmask called. "Be mindful of Rosepaw!"

"It's fine, Starlingmask," the apprentice responded. "Really."

Stripekit jumped off. Goldkit came forward, her amber-and-blue eyes glowing. "So, how's it going?"

"Fine, I guess. Just another day." Rosepaw stood up. "Barkthroat is doing his same old lessons, and I did some training with Shiningblaze."

"What did Barkthroat teach?" Duskkit asked.

"About AbyssClan's first medicine cat. I know she's important, but I just can't be bothered to pay attention."

Duskkit nodded, glancing over to Stripekit, who was fidgeting with a pebble, and then back at Rosepaw. "How do you think my littermate would do in the trainer's class?"

Rosepaw also looked at Stripekit. "Tawnydapple and Thunderear are good medicine cats. They'll help your littermate. He may have struggles, but he will ultimately become a warrior someday."

"Hey, Rosepaw!" a voice called from outside the nursery. "Help me care for the elders over here!"

Rosepaw knew who was calling her name. "Come on, Coldpaw! You were assigned to do that!"

Rosepaw slipped out of the nursery, the kits saying a goodbye. Duskkit turned to Goldkit and Stripekit. "Hide-and-seek, anybody?"

Goldkit groaned, "Come on! You know I suck at that!"

"Well, I like it," Duskkit replied.

"I'll play with you," Stripekit offered.

"Thank you, Stripekit. Who should hide first?"

"I'll probably forget about you if I try to hunt you. I should hide."

"Got that."

Duskkit closed his eyes, Stripekit diving into a bush. Goldkit sat beside her mother.

"You want to talk with me, darling?" Starlingmask asked.

"Well, I don't have anything else to do, so sure."

"So, how do you think of Rosepaw? Is she sweet?"

"I do like her."

"That's good."

"Hey, I see you," Duskkit said into a bush. Stripekit came out.

"Here's a tip, stay as silent as possible while hiding," Duskkit told his littermate.

Stripekit flicked his tail, then closed his eyes and counted while Duskkit quietly sneaked behind a rock.

"I'm glad I have my littermates, though," Goldkit meowed.